



Walker Kong and the Dangermakers, 1999. (DANIEL CORRIGAN)

**D**IGGING THROUGH the massive archive of prints, negatives, and proof sheets by Minneapolis photographer Daniel Corrigan in order to select the most iconic photos for the MNHS Press book, *Heyday: 35 Years of Music in Minneapolis*, was a daunting task. While it was a thrill to find gems of unseen or long-forgotten outtakes from Corrigan’s documentation of the 1980s and 1990s Minneapolis music scene, a handful of pictures of my old friends, indie-pop band Walker Kong and the Dangermakers, struck closest to my heart.

The smiles of the band members practically burned a hole through the photo paper, inciting a smile of my own and a flood of memories, in particular, the band’s “living room show,” staged one hot spring night in 1999 in Dangermaker Katie Kanwischer’s classic south Minneapolis four-story brick building, wedged between Hen-

nepin and Bryant Avenues. The band embraced the idea of a “happening” instead of playing some dingy bar or club that was often the norm. Amidst the glory of our youth, a couple dozen of the band’s 20-something friends packed into the small apartment, the band’s equipment crammed into a corner.

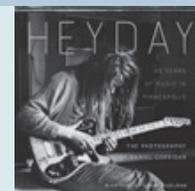
Walker Kong and the Dangermakers, fronted by my high school friend Jeremy Ackerman, presented themselves with a loose playfulness and amplified vulnerability. That night, Ackerman awkwardly strummed out the opening chords to their song, “Harvard Square Square,”

the clean sound reverberating off tall windows awash in still twilight. The backup singers cooed along harmonically as partygoers sat cross-legged on the floor, sipping lemonade cocktails in plastic cups.

Once the Dangermakers took up their instruments and kicked the party into high gear, the living room turned into a dance floor. The band maintained a high-energy spirit with its jangly garage-rock sound. Dancers reveled, high on a cookie-and-cupcake sugar rush, all of us aloof from the night and the city that surrounded us.

—Danny Sigelman

**DANNY SIGELMAN** is a DJ, writer, musician, and artist who has worked for Radio K, KFAI, MPR, China Radio International, and Secret Stash Records. His first book, the collaboration with photographer Daniel Corrigan, *Heyday: 35 Years of Music in Minneapolis*, (Minnesota Historical Society Press) comes out November 1.





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